



Volume 1, Issue 03

Ouranophantor

March 2018

A Newsletter of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

733 Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60607

www.stbasilchicago.org



Church Office:	Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias, <i>Proistamenos</i>
Telephone: 312-243-3738	Phone: 847-558-9849
Office Fax: 312-243-7961	email: Fr.dimitri.c.tobias@gmail.com
Parish Council President:	Jayme Schenk

Worship Hours

Sundays: Orthros 8:15 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy

Weekdays: Divine Liturgy 8:30 a.m.

Esperinos: For Major Feasts 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Paraklesis Service 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, April 1st—Palm Sunday Luncheon following Divine Liturgy
- Sunday, April 29th — Greek Independence Day
- Thursday, May 31st — Trivia Night at Billy Goat Tavern (1535 W. Madison St.) at 6:30 pm

For more information:

www.stbasilchicago.org or contact church office at 312-243-3738.

We welcome new families to our parish!

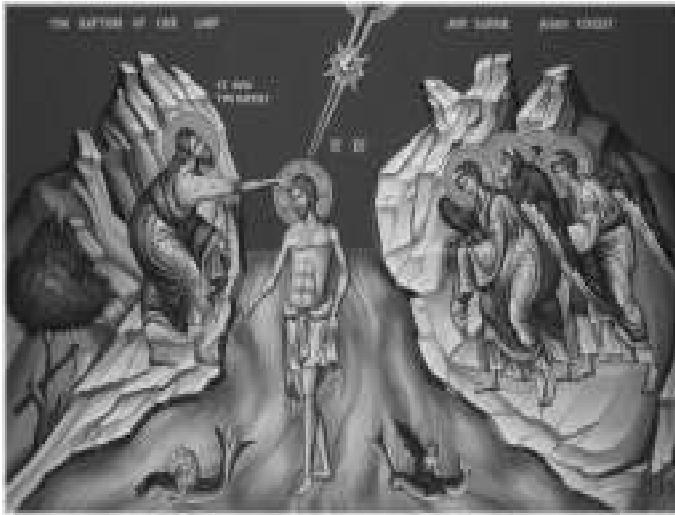
Now is the time to reach out to your loved ones who have fallen away for whatever reason and bring them back to Church. Now is the time to share your faith with others! Together we must grow. Together we must build the Body of Christ. Invite someone to a service or to a Church event. We have one of the friendliest communities in the Archdiocese. Let us go out so that they will know we are Christians by our love.

Follow on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Basil-Greek-Orthodox-Church-476775679041438/>

Sacraments and Blessings

Baptisms:



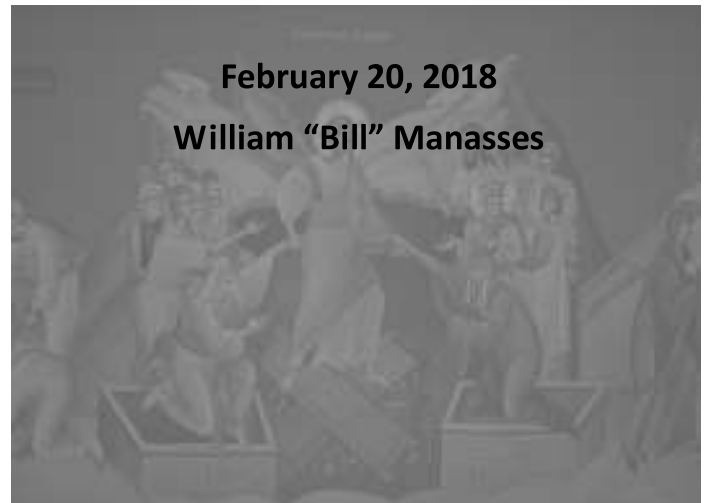
Chrismations:



Weddings:



Funerals:



February 20, 2018

William "Bill" Manasses

40-Day Blessings:



Father Dimitri's Message

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am not a fan of the “fasting police.” I do not care for the practice of judging our brothers and sisters for how they keep the fast. Never mind that it runs contrary to the Epistle of Judgment Sunday.

“Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.” St. Paul's Letter to the Romans. But it also invalidates one's fast, St. Basil states: *“You do not eat meat, but you devour your brother.”*



Fasting is not a mere matter of diet. It is moral as well as physical. In the words of St. John Chrysostom, it means *“abstinence not only from food but from sins.”* *“The fast,”* he insists, *“should be kept not by the mouth alone but also by the eye, the ear, the feet, the hands and all the members of the body. The eye must abstain from impure sights, the ear from malicious gossip, the hands from acts of injustice.”*

This is a holy fast. And it is of great value. Fasting accomplishes two great feats and both are critical during the Great and Holy Fast.

1). It sharpens the mind. One need only think of Thanksgiving afternoon to understand what gorging on food will do to one's senses. We become dull, sluggish, and outright sleepy as the body tries to digest the great feast we consumed. Could you imagine playing a game of basketball or running a marathon immediately after? Impossible. What about writing a substantive essay? Again, most difficult.



Boxers, traditionally, will fast before a match. The idea being that the little bit of hunger will make the brain synapses fire faster, which allows for more rapid thought. When dodging punches, one would want to have the fastest reflexes possible. It is the same in our spiritual lives, especially during Great and Holy Lent. We seek to pray long hours and increase our prayer rules as we prepare for Pascha. We want to be able to focus on our prayers, and we also want to be able to be watchful of the “jabs” of the enemy, who desires to spoil our fast with hatred and irritability.

2). The fast teaches self-control. This is the heart of what St. John Chrysostom means and also why it is the first vice tackled by St. John Climacus in his *Ladder of Divine Ascent*. He names it the gateway to the passions. *“The great attraction of **gluttony** is not necessarily concerned with large quantities of food, but in the temptation to have just a ‘little taste.’ But if the wish for a taste succeeds in making you a slave to gluttony, the Evil One can then give you up utterly to destruction.”*

Therefore, almost all sins enter through this door: Wrath, Sloth, Lust, Pride, Envy, Vanity. If we cannot master our bellies we are doomed to worse. We must learn to say no, to master our bodies. St. John Climacus says that *"the prince of demons is the fallen Lucifer, and gluttony is the prince of the passions."* Therefore it can be said that *"the stomach is the cause of all human disaster Let us then ask of this archfoe: Who is your mother? Who are Your Children?"...And gluttony ... furiously raving at us, answers: Why do you try to separate yourself from me? I am bound to you by nature. I gain entry through the very nature of food [i.e., food is by nature pleasant to the taste and desirable]. The cause of my insatiability is habit. The foundation of my passion is repeated habit, insensitivity of the soul and forgetfulness of death Now learn the names of my first-born and best loved children: 1. Fornication; 2. Hard-heartedness; 3. drowsiness"* (**The Ladder**).



To acquire virtue, it is necessary to first rid ourselves of the passions. Fasting is the all-important first step and cannot be neglected.

That being said, fasting must be approached in a healthy manner with the aid of a spiritual father. If certain health concerns are present, such as diabetes, age, or other challenges, then fasting must be tempered. This is because fasting is a tool, not the goal. This is why “fasting police” irk me. We do not know the journey of any individual and what his or her spiritual father directed. Because of this, we must always assume that the individual is following the guidance of his or her priest unless that person asks advice.

This journey is not possible on willpower alone. We must pray for strength and our Savior’s aid in conquering the fast. Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting are the tent poles of Great Lent. As we prepare for Pascha, we try to dedicate as much time as possible to all three, The fast is not merely about giving something up, but about sharpening our spiritual selves into better Christians. Great Lent affords us many opportunities to do this, and I pray that we all avail ourselves of them to our spiritual benefit.

Ευλογημένη Σαρακοστή και καλή μετάνοια!
Blessed 40 Days and Good Repentance!

I remain your servant in Christ,
Fr. Dimitri Tobias,
Proistamenos

President's Letter

By Jayme Schenk

Hello St. Basil Community,

As we enter this Lenten season, I wanted to take a minute to update everyone on the events last month. We enjoyed a fabulous Apokreatiko Old Fashioned Glendi on February 11 after Liturgy. It was hosted by the Parish Council and chaired by Eleni and Gus Sarolas. Thank you to all who attended and helped with the event. It was a beautiful luncheon with great food and fellowship.



I also wanted to take a minute to point out some additions in the sanctuary these past few months. Our iconographer Tom Clarke has completed the first of three icons for the North wall that were burned in the fire. Also, the pulpit icons were recently finished. If you have not already done so, please take a minute and look at them. They are stunning.

As Lent begins, I invite everyone to try and attend a few more services than they did last year, there are some beautiful services during the week, leading up to Holy Week. I wish everyone a beautiful and peaceful Lenten season.

Jayme Schenk, Parish Council President

Philoptochos Update

By Vana Kikos

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 11, following church services, same day as Daylight Saving Time. We encourage any woman interested in finding out more about our work to please join us for the meeting to see what we're all about. Thank you to Nichole Kourvas for the membership poster on display in our Fellowship Hall and to Melita Green, our membership chair-- great job, Ladies!

Sunday, February 25 was "Go Red" Day at St. Basil after church, and on that day women were asked to wear RED in order to draw attention to women's heart health issues and heart disease, the number one killer of women. Coffee hour included heart healthy snacks enjoyed by all. A big thank you to our Mary Peroulas for organizing this very special event at our Church.

The Metropolis Lenten Retreat this year will be held on Saturday, March 10, at Assumption Church (Panagia) Chicago, 601 S. Central. Luncheon following. More info to follow.

We have a new Metropolitan! Enthronement of Metropolitan-Elect Nathaniel will be held on Saturday, March 24, at Annunciation Cathedral, 1017 N. LaSalle. Luncheon to follow at the Chicago Hilton. More info coming soon.

YiaYia's Kouzina bakers have been busy making delicious koulourakia cookies for Easter! Three varieties will be available for purchase this year: sesame, spice flavored, and traditional. Packages of 18 koulouria will be available for sale on April 1, Palm Sunday.

Thank You— Vana Kikos , Philoptochos President

Stewardship Update

By Tom Bezanos

Our 2017 stewardship goals were 190 stewards and \$190,000. As of our Jan Board Meeting our 2017 Stewardship report follows:

- ◇ Stewards - 181
- ◇ Pledged - \$191,296.00
- ◇ Collected - \$185,750.00

We are pleased to have surpassed our 2017 pledge goal. Final 2017 stewardship collection will be available by the March board meeting.

We welcome the arrival of Fr Dimitri and look forward to expanding our parish in 2018 and beyond.

Our 2018 Stewardship Goal is 200 Stewards and \$200,000.

HAVE YOU BECOME A STEWARD OF ST. BASIL CHURCH?

Visit our website at www.stbasilchicago.org and click on "Our Parish" and "Stewardship" to learn more or contact church office at 312-243-3738 for additional information.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(Matt. 6:21)



Girls Ministry

By Mary Peroulas

Yes, spring is just around the corner! And we are excited to share with you the Girls Ministry schedule of events for Spring 2018.

Included in the agenda are educational activities, give-back events and lots of fun. Ten days prior to each event, parents will receive more detailed information and a request for an RSVP. We hope all the girls can join us for these special activities.

The Girls Ministry is for girls K-6th grade at St. Basil. This ministry brings the girls together in a spirit of love, strengthening their relationships with others in the church and with Christ. I am blessed with the privilege to learn along with the girls.

Proverbs 22:6 ~ Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

SPRING 2018

Girls Ministry Activities

Sunday, March 11 ~ Following Divine Liturgy
Girls design & write cards to include in sack lunches the Philoptochos is packing for residents of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter
LPCS offers homeless men & women programs to help them overcome the issues that caused their homelessness. The goal is to assist residents in moving to their own permanent home.

Sunday, April 15 ~ Following Divine Liturgy
Guest Speaker Christina Stavros Kidonakis
Continuing discussion of "Women in the Church"

Sunday, May 13 ~ 9:45 a.m.
Youth Sunday
Girls will assist in the Narthex with candles, passing trays & distributing flowers for Mother's Day.
Short educational activity after Divine Liturgy.

Sunday, June 3 ~ Following Divine Liturgy
Educational Activity
Summer's Here Picnic ~ food, games & fun!

For more information, contact Mary at peroulas@comcast.net or the church office
St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church ~ 733 South Ashland Avenue, Chicago ~ 312-243-3736

Proverbs 22:6
"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

CONFESSION WITH FR. DIMITRI

PREPARATIONS

Pray and think about your confession over several days. Ask God to help you perceive your sins and to make a thorough confession of them. Sometime before the sacrament of Holy Confession, offer selected prayers from the following Confessional Prayers, Psalm 51 or the following prayer of repentance:



Prayer of Repentance

O Lord my God, I confess that I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. I have also omitted to do what Your holy law requires of me. But now with repentance and contrition I turn again to Your love and mercy. I entreat You to forgive me all my transgressions and to cleanse me from all my sins. Lord, fill my heart with the light of Your truth. Strengthen my will by Your grace. Teach me both to desire and to do only what pleases You. Amen.

Now, without justification or self-pity, make a prayerful examinations of your conscience regarding all things. As a help, reflect on your life in the light of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. Take pencil and paper and specify your sins so that, at the time of the sacrament, you will be able to make a thorough confession from the list, without confusion or lapse of memory.

The Ten Commandments

I am the Lord your God, and you shall have no other gods before me.

Has God been the source, center and hope of my life? Have I put myself, others or things before God? Have I failed to trust in God's existence, love and mercy? Have I failed to pray to God, to worship Him and to thank Him for His blessings? Have I tried to serve God and keep His commandments faithfully? Have I murmured or complained against God in adversity? Have I praised and glorified God through my words and deeds?

You shall not make for yourself a graven image in order to worship it.

Have I valued anyone or anything above God? Have I given to anyone or anything the love, honor and worship that belong to God alone? Have I made an idol of any person, idea, occupation, or thing?

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Have I blasphemed God's holy name in any way? Have I sworn a

false oath? Have I broken any solemn vow or promise? Have I entered into an agreement, promise or contract against God's law? Have I cursed or used foul language?

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Have I worshiped regularly on Sundays and major feast days and have I helped others to do the same? Have I worked unnecessarily on Sundays or major feast days or caused others to do so? Have I spent the Lord's Day in a wholesome and edifying way?

Honor your father and mother

Have I loved and respected my parents as I should? Have I neglected them or failed to help them? Have I disobeyed them, deceived them or caused them pain by my words or deeds? Have I treated all my family members with patience and love?

Thou shall not kill.

Have I caused the harm, injury or death of anyone? Have I wished my own or anyone's harm or death? Have I been cruel to animals or destroyed any life unnecessarily?

You shall not commit adultery.

Have I committed any immoral acts alone or with others? Have I caused others to commit immoral acts? Have I committed immoral acts in my heart?

You shall not steal.

Have I taken anything that was not mine from anyone or from anywhere? Have I cheated anyone? Have I caused others to steal or cheat? Have I tried to find the owners of lost things I have found? Have I damaged or destroyed anything that belonged to another? Have I defrauded anyone of rightful wages? Have I paid my debts? Have I given to the poor and to philanthropic causes in proportion to my means?

You shall not bear false witness.

Have I given false testimony against anyone? Have I spoken evil, told lies or spread rumors about anyone? Have I disclosed to anyone the sins and faults of another? Have I made careless statements or done anything else to harm the name and reputation of another? Have I engaged in idle gossip?

You shall not covet.

Have I looked with envy jealousy or hatred toward the possessions, talents, or achievements of others? Have I desired the downfall or loss of others out of evil intent that I might benefit? Have I grieved that God has bestowed greater blessings on others than on me?

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Have I truly recognized my complete dependence on God? Have I been proud, arrogant and self-righteous in my ways? Have I been selfish, possessive and self-seeking? Have I sought after status, power and wealth?

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Have I endured difficulties and afflictions with faith and patience? Have I felt sadness for the sufferings of the poor, the hungry, and addicted; the sick, the lonely and the sinful of the world? Have I truly been sorrowful for my sins and faults?

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Have I tried to serve or rather to dominate others at home, school, work, office, Church and elsewhere? Have I nursed animosity against anyone? Have I been resentful, bitter, unforgiving or insulting and abusive to others? Have I loved my enemies?

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Have I truly yearned for God's will to be done in all things? Have I worked for justice in my family, society and the world in ways within my reach? Have I tried to cultivate a righteous life through prayer, fasting, worship, receiving Holy Communion and deeds of love toward others?

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Have I shown compassion and help toward the poor, hungry, lonely and needy around me? Have I tried to understand and forgive others? Have I been indifferent, judgmental or legalistic?

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Have I loved goodness, purity and holiness? Have I succumbed to evil motives and intentions? Have I given way to impure thoughts, words or deeds? Have I been guilty of bias and prejudice? Have I been hypocritical, pretentious or self-indulgent to sinful passions?

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Do I have God's peace in my heart? Have I been unfairly angry, aggressive or impatient? Have I worked for peace at home, work, church and in society? Have I been irritable, polemical, or divisive?

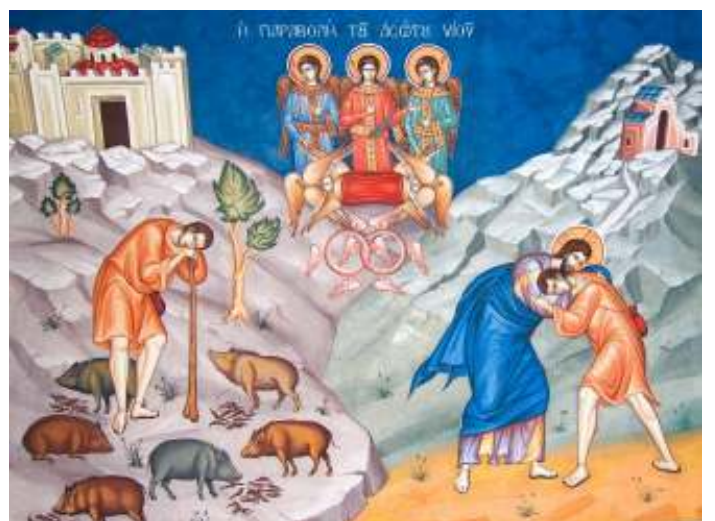
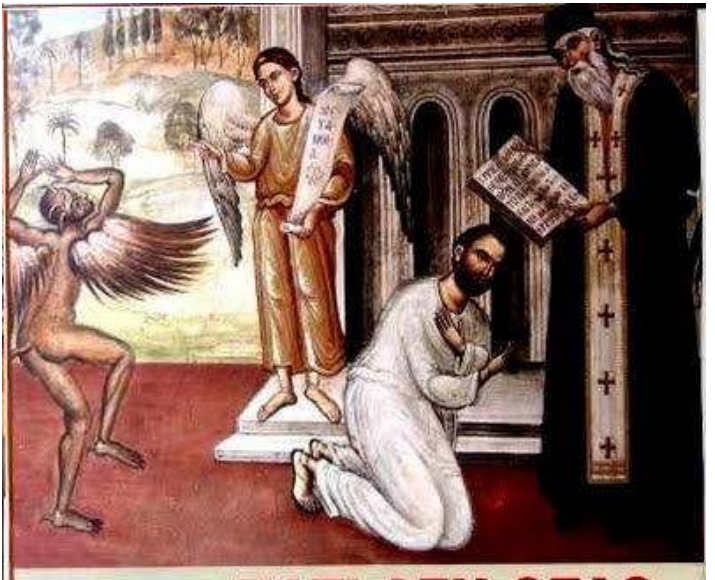
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Have I complained when persecuted for God's sake? Have I

prayed for my persecutors? Have I failed to defend anyone in the truth for fear of humiliation or persecution? Have I had the courage to stand up for what is right despite criticism, ridicule or persecution?

Blessed are you when they revile you and persecute you on my account; rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven

Is the joy of Christ in my heart even in trying moments? Have I been pessimistic, despondent or despairing? Have I truly delighted in the promise of God's treasures in heaven?



Someone You Should Know

"It's like hearing an angel sing," said one parishioner about the voice of chanter Christina Stavros Kidonakis. She and her husband, Anthony, residents of Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood, have been attending St. Basil for about a year and a half, joining our parish's regular chanters whenever they can.

Christina is a resident chaplain at Loyola University Medical Center. She holds a master's degree in divinity from Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and was a pilot student in Byzantine music at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Boston. She became the first woman to be certified as a chanter in the Greek Orthodox Church in America. Discussing her personal journey from a little girl who loved to sing to a young woman who has been pursuing the study of theology and music, she observed that "Orthodoxy is not a religion, but a way of life." Christina hopes that her personal journey will help young women see that they have an important role to play in the life of the Orthodox Church. This is the message she conveyed in her presentation to the Girls Ministry in January.

Christina loves the parish community at Saint Basil and its rich liturgical life. She sees a lot of potential for our parish in ministry because of its proximity to the University of Illinois and Rush Hospital.



Welcome Ministry

By Melita Green

St. Basil is a welcoming parish! I experienced this when moving from Eugene, Oregon, to Chicago last August. This was a big move for me and I was anxious to know if a convert would be welcomed. To my great relief, a Welcome Ministry member greeted me after Antidoron and accompanied me to the Fellowship Hall, visited with me and introduced me to others. I was overjoyed and with tears later told my family that I had found the church to attend. Thank you, St. Basil, for welcoming me.

Father Dimitri asked me to become the leader of the Welcome Ministry after the previous leader resigned. This was a wonderful opportunity for me because I was in the same position at my previous parish in Oregon. After attending the first Missions & Evangelism Conference of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in October 2016, I was brimming with ideas. Fr. Dimitri and I developed Mission and Vision Statements for the Welcome Ministry.



Our Mission is to welcome guests to St. Basil, inviting and facilitating their worship, fellowship, and outreach within the Community.

Our Vision is to warmly welcome each guest and provide information about Orthodoxy and the Ministries of St. Basil; to be enacted by mentoring during services, providing camaraderie during fellowship, and follow-up through correspondence.

We have assembled a Welcome Ministry team consisting of returning and new members: Gus Arvanitis, Tony Fragale, Phyllis Koumantos, Lambros Peroulas, Tony Rouches, Sophia Harritos, Claudette Hillock, Elaine Debrickero, Patoula and John Billiris, and Melita Green.

We are welcoming guests from the Narthex where they are given a new St. Basil Welcome brochure with a Guest Information sheet and a note from Father tucked inside. Father welcomes them following Liturgy and a Welcome Ministry team member welcomes them again after Antidoron, accompanying them to the Fellowship Hall. We obtain the completed Guest Information sheet and Father follows-up during the week.

I look forward to working with Fr. Dimitri and the Welcome Ministry team to grow St. Basil.

Sunday School

By Jennifer Georgopoulos

The Sunday School students have been learning about Great Lent using their Lenten Passports. The passports serve as a guide through the journey of Great Lent.

We are asking the Sunday School students, with their families, to attend the Akathist Lenten service Friday, March 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Our Sunday School will be preparing for our in-house **Oratorical and Arts Festival which will be held on March 18, 2018**. The Oratorical and Arts Festival is an opportunity for the children to express their feelings about their faith and church.

There have been date changes for Holy Confession. Holy Confession will take place immediately following Divine Liturgy on the dates below:

Grades 5th-7th: Sunday March 4, 2018

K- Grade 4th: Sunday March 11, 2018

Preparation for Holy Confession-Prayer & Spiritual Life-Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is a great reference and preparation tool for the sacrament of Holy Confession.

Congratulations to our Sunday School teachers Eleni Katsoulis and Karina Onderdonk, for they are expecting. The Sunday School teachers prepared something special for those teachers during coffee hour. A special thanks to the Sunday School teachers for all their hard work and dedication to the students. If you have any questions please contact Jennifer Georgopoulos at jenspalla75@sbcglobal.net.



Yiayia's Kouzina

By Dorothy Bezemes

To enlighten those new to St. Basil there is a lot of history to be told, but briefly this is how Yiayia's Kouzina got started. In the late 1990s rather than bake at home to bring homemade pastries to the festival, our Philoptochos ladies gathered together to bake at church. Everything was made from scratch using only fresh and finest ingredients. It was a huge success, which led us to start our Yiayia's Kouzina ministry (part of Philoptochos, but not exclusive to Philoptochos); not only to bake for the festival but to bake for Easter and Christmas. In the past, we have also baked for weddings and christenings, and provided homemade pastries for some of our church fundraisers.

From the beginning of Yiayia's Kouzina, our work and proceeds have been used to benefit our beloved church or our many philanthropic commitments. Our first project was to bring our church kitchen up to date so we could get started baking. We had old pots and pans, basically one set of knives, measuring cups, spoons etc. So we put together a registry for the church at Bed, Bath & Beyond; designated a Sunday to hold a shower and watched our loving parishioners go to work. We were fully stocked and even had some extra money to buy an extra utility table and a large cooling rack, and a member was able to get a donation of two industrial freezers from a local school that was remodeling. We were now ready to bake!

Our second project was the hall renovation. It was a dream we all had and because of our predecessors' foresight we were able to pay to remodel the church hall. Many years prior to our starting Yiayia's Kouzina, a CD was started and whenever we could we added money to it. Once we started baking and selling our pastries we were able to add enough money to cover the renovation. It was decided that the church hall would be called Philoptochos Hall and Father Chris Kerhulas and then president Kathy Walstrom cut the ribbon on our new hall. Our dearly departed sister Pauline was heard saying "it took a lot of rolling koulourakia to renovate this hall!"

Many more projects have been completed since then but two of the most notable are the buying of new altar boy robes to coincide with the reopening of the church after the fire, and the newly installed kandeli over the Royal Doors in the church. All of these completed projects were because of our parish's support of Yiayia's Kouzina.

Through the years Yiayia's Kouzina has taught many of the younger generation how to make pastries. There are many stories that were shared, but mostly that their yiayia and mama were doing all the baking, and they thought they had plenty of time to learn. Sadly, in many cases that wasn't true. We also have the young ladies of our parish who married into a Greek family and wanted to learn, and now are teaching others. Now there are those who no longer do the prep work, but look proudly and lovingly at the accomplishments of the younger generation.

To summarize, our goal is not only to provide delicious home-made Greek pastries, but also to teach the young, and sometimes the elderly. Yiayia's Kouzina's ministry is a part of our St. Basil Philoptochos, and we welcome all of our parishioners to join us. We promise you that you will not only enjoy the fellowship but also will learn a trick or two; or teach us a trick or two, for it is never too late to learn.

Me agape,

Yiayia's Kouzina's Committee



Feed the Homeless

By Pat Cole

On Saturday, February 3, five parishioners from St. Basil set out at 6 a.m. to pack and distribute 50 sack lunches to homeless people on Lower Wacker Drive. Each sack contained a sandwich, fruit, snack crackers, a bottle of water, and a pair of warm socks. The socks were purchased with a generous donation from our Philoptochos Society. The food items were purchased by the five parishioners.

Lower Wacker is part of a labyrinth of underground streets on the east end of Chicago's loop. These spots are desirable to the homeless because they provide some protection from the cold, wind, and rain.

The parishioners—Nick Mader, Stella Kapetan, Pat and Steve Cole, and Maria Argos—have been feeding the homeless for about five years now, going out roughly three times a year.



Prison Ministry

By Pat Cole

Inmate Thanks St Basil for Angel Tree Gifts

Prison Ministry Seeks a Parishioner To Respond

The Saint Basil prison ministry program has occasionally requested that additional parishioners step forward to correspond with inmates. Now we looking for one parishioner to correspond with a specific prisoner, one whose three children, ages 1, 3, and 4, were served by the Angel Tree Program in December. Timothy recently responded to the card we sent to let him know his children received their gifts. Please read his letter, and if you would want to correspond with Timothy, please call Pat Cole at 312-773-252-8254.

Dear Saint Basil,

I received the Christmas card from your church, letting me know you all were responsible for providing my children and grandchildren with a beautiful Christmas. Thank you for your contribution to the Angel Tree Program. It is a blessing for this program to exist. It helps me to become a blessing to someone else.

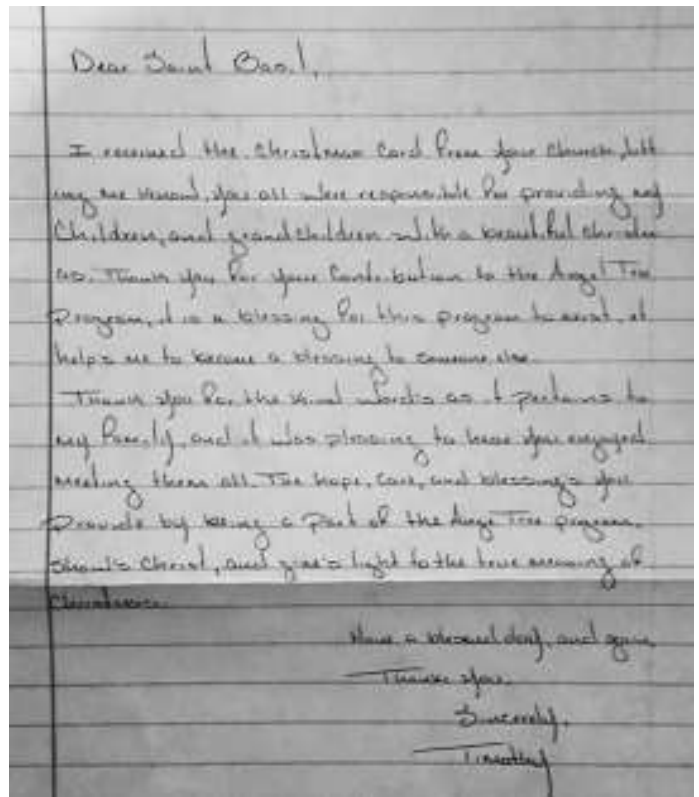
Thank you for the kind words as it pertains to my family, and it was pleasing to hear you enjoyed meeting them all. The hope, care, and blessings you provide by being a part of the Angel Tree Program shows Christ, and gives light to the true meaning of Christmas.

Have a blessed day and again,

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Timothy



Holy Week—Volunteers Needed

CALLING ALL YOUNG LADIES

We need our darling myrofores (myrrh bearing women) for Holy Friday Night

Please wear a white dress and see Jennifer Georgopoulos if you are interested in your child participating.



CALLING ALL STRONG ARMS

We need volunteers to carry the Kouvouklion around the church Holy Friday Night. Please participate in the honor of carrying the bier of our Lord Jesus Christ.

See Tony Frankos if you are interested in participating.



AGAPE VESPERS—SUNDAY APRIL 8

Please contact Fr. Dimitri to read the Gospel in a foreign language! Looking for:

Spanish - Italian - Chinese -Tigrinia
Latin - Russian - Romanian - Swahili
German - Arabic- Oromo - English
French - Japanese - Amharic - etc.



Choir Update

By George Panagopoulos

During this Lenten season the St. Basil Church Choir invites you to join. Lent is a beautiful period with many extra services with gorgeous hymns to praise God. No prior music experience is required and our music director will gladly work with you one on one. Rehearsals during lent will be Friday nights after the Salutations service at 7p.m. Contact George Panagopoulos, the director of music (stbasilchoir@gmail.com), our priest Father Dimitri Tobias, or the church office. Thank you.

Holy Week Liturgical Schedule



Saturday, March 31

Saturday of Lazarus

Orthros 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m.



Thursday, April 5

Mystical Supper Liturgy

Vespers Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

The Passion Service

Orthros 6:00 p.m.



Sunday, April 1

Palm Sunday

Orthros 8:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m.

Holy Monday Orthros

(Bridegroom Service)

Orthros 6:00 p.m.



Friday, April 6

The Royal Hours

Hours Service 9:00 a.m.

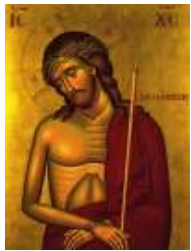
The Apokatheilosis

(Removal from the Cross)

Vespers 2:30 p.m.

The Lamentations

Orthros 6:00 p.m.



Monday, April 2

Holy Tuesday Orthros

(Bridegroom Service)

Orthros 6:00 p.m.



Wednesday, April 3

Unction Ευχέλιον Service

Unction 2:30 p.m.

Orthros 6:00 p.m.



Holy Thursday Orthros

(with Unction)

Orthros 6:00 p.m.



Saturday, April 7

The Protianastasi (Little Resurrection)

Vespers Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

The Orthros of the Resurrection

Orthros 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 8

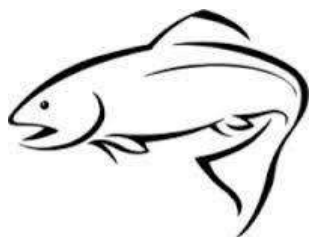
The Resurrection

Come Receive the Light 12:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 12:30 a.m.

The Agape Vespers

Vespers 12:00 p.m.

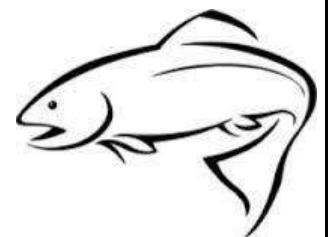


Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon

Adults \$25.00

Children under 12 \$10.00

Lamb Raffle



Coffee Hour Ministry

The Coffee Hour Ministry at St. Basil allows parishioners the opportunity to host Coffee Hour twice a month. It's a great way to get involved and promote fellowship at St. Basil while getting to know one another better.

We are looking for volunteers to either host a Coffee Hour or participate in hosting one of our Quarterly Pot Luck Luncheons with a team of other parishioners. We still have a few open dates available for 2018. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Church office at [312-243-3738](tel:312-243-3738).

Sun March 4	Coffee Hour: Irene Antonoglu
Sun March 11	Coffee Hour: Philoptochos
Sun March 18	Coffee Hour: Marina Arvanitis & Pat Cole
Sun March 25	Coffee Hour: Philoptochos

The Orthros Service Ministry

By Maria Constantinides

This “early dawn” service precedes the Divine Liturgy. In its full version, this beautiful and complex service can last six hours. It has been abridged to one hour for religious services outside of the monasteries. Orthros is both recited, (by a reader), and chanted, (by a cantor), on Sundays and feast days. The variable components of this service are hymns and canons. The fixed components are psalms and litanies. The Sunday Orthros service also includes the calendar gospel reading. The Orthros service varies for weekday feasts, Great Lent, Easter, and Bright Week. The Sunday Orthros service concludes with the reading of the Thanksgiving Prayers following the Divine Liturgy.

Historically, Orthros was observed in the Greek language only. This beautiful service is enjoying a newfound following among all Greek Orthodox Christians who are fluent in English.

The Orthros Service Ministry at Saint Basil is fortunate to have volunteer readers who are committed to dedicating their voices in reciting the passages in either Greek or English. We hope that you will be inspired to volunteer your voice to this unique and beautiful ministry.

Each volunteer has his/her own reason for offering time and talent to a specific ministry. This column will share our personal stories regarding the Orthros Ministry and will provide some spiritual guidance from Father Dimitri regarding some of the special Orthros prayers.

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 6:00 pm 2nd Salutations to the Virgin Mary	3 9:30 am Yayia Kouzina Baking
4 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School meets 11:45 am Philoptochos Meeting	5 6:00 pm Great Compline 7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	6 10:00 am Bible Study	7 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Lenten Lecture	8	9 6:00 pm 3rd Salutations to the Virgin Mary	10
11 Girls Ministry Daylight Saving Time starts 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Sunday School will process for Holy Cross 10:30 am Sunday School meets	12 6:00 pm Great Compline	13 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm School Teacher Meeting	14 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Lenten Lecture	15	16 6:00 pm Sunday School Salutations 6:00 pm 4th Salutations to the Virgin Mary	17
18 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School meets 11:30 am Philoptochos Making Sack Lunches for Lincoln Park Community Shelter	19 6:00 pm Great Compline	20 10:00 am Bible Study	21 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Lenten Lecture	22	23 6:00 pm Akathist Hymn to the Virgin Mary	24 7:00 pm Enthronement of Metropolitan Nathaniel of Chicago Great Vespers for Annunciation (at Chicago parish)
25 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School meets	26 6:00 pm Great Compline	27	28 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Lenten Lecture	29	30	31 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Saturday of Lazarus

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church
733 South Ashland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60607



St. Basil Upcoming Events — “Save the Date”


ST. BASIL CHURCH
HOSTS 3rd ANNUAL
TRIVIA NIGHT



DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 31
LOCATION: BILLY GOAT INN, 1535 W. MADISON ST., CHICAGO, IL
TIME: 7PM – 9PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM)
TRIVIA STARTS PROMPTLY AT 7PM
TEAMS OF 4 TO 6 – \$40/PERSON
PRIZES FOR TOP 3 TEAMS
REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.STBASILCHICAGO.ORG/TRIVIA
QUESTIONS? CONTACT ST. BASIL AT (312) 243-3738 OR STBASILCHICAGO@COMCAST.NET

ST. BASIL
PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON
Sponsored by St. Basil Philoptochos

You are cordially invited to join us for our annual



SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2018
following Divine Liturgy in the Fellowship Hall
Traditional Fish Plaki (prepared by Boston Fish Market)
accompanied by skordalia, rice, salad, beets,
dessert and beverages
Adults ~ \$25.00
Children under 12 ~ \$10.00

For more information or to make a reservation, please call the church office at 312.243.3738. Checks should be made payable to St. Basil Philoptochos.

We will also have a Lamb Luthi for TOLN WHOLE BAKED LAMB (heavily cut and wrapped, ready to cook or broast). Tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 tickets for \$25.00. Drawings will be held during the meal.

Various picturesque antiques.

We hope you can join us!